

ROUTING

Top Secret 103

(Security Classification)

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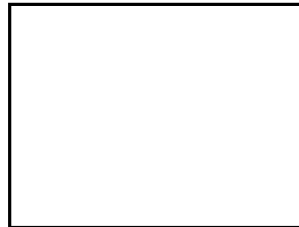
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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Friday May 21, 1976 CI NIDC 76-120C



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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Friday May 21, 1976.

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[REDACTED] The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

SYRIA

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[REDACTED] Leaders of Syria's Baath Party have been meeting this week in Damascus, apparently to review Syrian strategy in Lebanon. President Asad presumably will elicit a statement of support from the group in an effort to counter increasing domestic criticism of his actions in Lebanon.

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[REDACTED] The unusual joint meeting of the party's Syrian and international leadership could also be called upon to approve more extensive Syrian involvement in Lebanon. Asad almost always seeks prior approval of major decisions from the party's governing bodies, even though he is head of the party and has been able to win almost automatic endorsement of his recommendations.

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[REDACTED] Asad needs an expression of party support at this time. Demonstrations against Syria's role in Lebanon have occurred recently in several areas of the country and among all the principal ethnic groups. Arab students in Europe have staged protests at some Syrian embassies.

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[REDACTED] The recent increase in the protests appears to have resulted from heavy casualties suffered by Syrian-controlled troops in the serious fighting in Tripoli early last week. In at least one Palestinian camp, there was a violent anti-government demonstration and an attack on a Baath Party office.

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[REDACTED] Those Syrians who have not actively protested presumably are nevertheless unhappy with the economic problems associated with the Lebanon campaign--many basic commodities are now scarce or available only at inflated prices--and share the feeling that Asad is protecting the Lebanese Christians against justifiable demands for change from Lebanese Muslims and leftists.

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LEBANON

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[] Fighting fell off sharply in Beirut yesterday despite leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt's denials that the leftists have agreed to a cease-fire. Jumblatt indicated that he and his allies were studying a proposal made on Wednesday by president-elect Sarkis that apparently would reopen negotiations for a political settlement to the Lebanese civil war.

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[] Sarkis' proposal reportedly includes provision for:

--A temporary truce, renewable on a 48-hour basis.

--The resignation of President Franjiyah after the truce takes hold.

--Roundtable negotiations that will include all parties to the conflict.

--An agreement linking the withdrawal of Syrian troops to the "state of security."

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[] //A senior Syrian military officer recently told the US defense attache in Damascus that Syria has been promoting the idea of roundtable discussions.//

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[] //The Syrian officer emphasized, however, that Syria's immediate objective is a cease-fire, not negotiations or Franjiyah's resignation. He implied that Syria is prepared to enforce such a cease-fire.//

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[] //Although the Christians have allowed Syrians and Palestinians to patrol disputed areas during previous cease-fires, they have always refused to allow them to enter Christian areas.//

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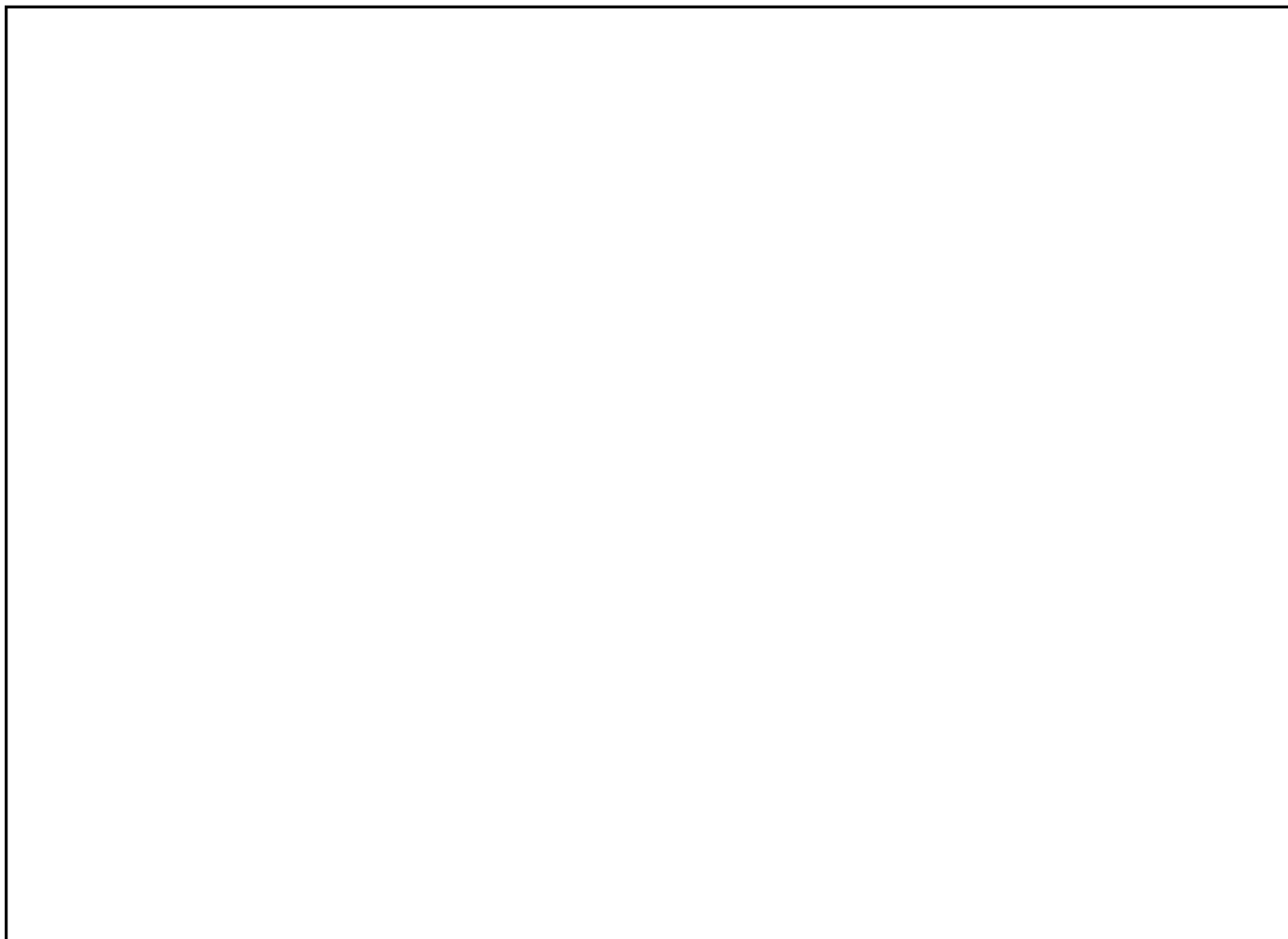
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 Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat went to Damascus again yesterday, reportedly to discuss with Syrian leaders the holding of Lebanese roundtable discussions. Presumably, he will also try to paper over the dispute that has developed between him and Asad. 

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SOUTH AFRICA - NAMIBIA

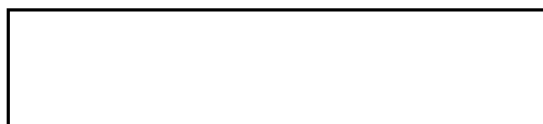
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[REDACTED] The special security zone created by South African authorities earlier this month in northern Namibia has been extended to cover the entire length of the Namibia-Angola border.

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[REDACTED] The 1-kilometer-wide (.6-mile) zone, from which all villagers will be removed, is in effect a no-man's land designed to facilitate counterinsurgent operations by the South African military. South African spokesmen are

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justifying the extension of the zone by citing an increase in guerrilla operations by the South-West Africa People's Organization, the Namibian nationalist organization.

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[] The South Africans say there have been more than 60 separate terrorist acts by these insurgents since last July and that at least 29 persons, including eight South African soldiers, have been killed. The South Africans believe that the guerrillas are being trained in southern Angola by Cuban troops. SWAPO guerrillas have been active in southern Angola, but we are uncertain about their relations with the Cubans stationed in Angola.

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[] There has been some increase recently in terrorist activities in northern Namibia, but the extension of the security zone seems conveniently timed to influence the current debate in the South African parliament over new stringent security measures proposed by the Vorster government.

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[] The proposed measures have sparked some public opposition and the government may hope the new security zone will dramatize the external threat to South Africa and ease passage of its controversial new measures. []

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ALGERIA-MOROCCO

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[] Algiers is renewing its efforts to keep the UN involved in Algeria's dispute with Morocco and Mauritania over Western Sahara.

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[] In a letter this week to Secretary General Waldheim, Algerian Foreign Minister Bouteflika belatedly charged that the agreement Rabat and Nouakchott signed on April 14 to partition the disputed territory was an illegal act that violated the UN Charter. He reiterated Algiers' demand for a UN-supervised referendum on self-determination for Western Sahara.

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[] Algeria's response at this time to the partition announcement may be designed in part to enhance the impact of a forthcoming report by a UN envoy who visited Spain and

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Algeria in early April. During his stay in Algeria, the envoy met leaders of the Polisario Front, which is seeking independence for the territory, and inspected Saharan refugee camps. The envoy had planned to visit Morocco and Mauritania as well, but both countries refused to receive him after his activities in Algeria.

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[] Algiers' letter is unlikely to advance its case at the UN. The Algerians have had little success lining up diplomatic support for their position in the Sahara dispute or for the new Polisario "state" created last February. Only eight other African states and North Korea have extended diplomatic recognition to the Polisarios.

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[] Bouteflika's letter was moderate by Algerian standards. While Rabat and Nouakchott were once again accused of threatening the peace and security of the region, Algiers did not call for a Security Council meeting nor threaten any retaliatory action.

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[] Algeria continues to provide the Polisario Front with political support and military supplies, but it seems to have decided to back a long-term guerrilla struggle and to be trying to avoid any direct clashes with the Moroccans.

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[] Moroccan forces continue to be harassed by Polisario guerrillas, despite the military operation last month designed to clean out the remaining pockets of Polisario resistance in Western Sahara. //A curfew for civilians has been imposed and the Moroccans are attempting to force the nomads into settled areas and to control all food supplies.//

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[] Guerrilla infiltration into Western Sahara continues, apparently with the support of the local population. To counter this infiltration and stop the flow of refugees to Algeria, Morocco's new southern zone commander, Colonel Britel, reportedly has proposed the establishment of a no-man's land approximately 30 kilometers (18 miles) wide along the entire eastern frontier of Morocco's portion of the Sahara.

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[] According to the US defense attache in Rabat, the Moroccan military is suffering from low morale and could become disenchanted with the regime's Saharan policy. The troops stationed in the south are said to be disgruntled by

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the lack of leave and inadequate food rations. Continued hit-and-run guerrilla attacks, even after several massive sweep and clear operations, have undoubtedly contributed to military frustrations.

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[REDACTED] The Mauritians, for their part, are concerned by recent Polisario attacks on three towns in northern Mauritania. The US embassy in Nouakchott has reported a substantial increase of night security patrols in the capital during the past week. The increased security precautions suggest genuine concern, at least on the part of some officials, that Polisario forces have the capability to launch sapper attacks on Nouakchott. [REDACTED]

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FRANCE

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[REDACTED] The multilateral aid fund for African development that French President Giscard proposed during the recent Franco-African summit reflects his desire to reinforce French--and Western--influence in Africa.

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[REDACTED] In a speech to the summit on May 11, Giscard called for programs to open up landlocked countries by road and rail, fight drought, spread modern agricultural techniques, and exploit mineral resources. He did not specify the size of the fund, the members, how contributions should be made, or how it would relate to other aid institutions.

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[REDACTED] The French were nevertheless especially anxious in the wake of events in Angola to show the moderate Africans that the West is still interested in Africa and that France, in particular, values its ties there. The Quai had been studying various

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proposals that might be made during the summit, and after his meeting with Secretary Kissinger on May 7, Giscard ordered the fund proposal added to his speech.

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[] The proposal is in keeping with the evaluation of Franco-African relationships that Paris began in the early 1970s. As France's interest in expanding its influence into the non-Francophone states grew and the available funding declined, Paris realized that the burden of maintaining its special relationship with French Africa had become too costly.

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[] Giscard's aid proposal at the summit received the positive response he wanted, but implementation may be slow. Even key French ministries that would be involved in the program lack details on Giscard's plan and have been unable to answer the technical questions US embassy officers have raised.

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[] Past inquiries have also revealed sharp differences of view on aid to Africa that will probably have to be resolved by the President himself. While one Quai official recently said, for example, that France will contribute about \$25 million to the African Solidarity Fund and about \$17 million to the African Development Fund, a finance ministry spokesman subsequently implied that his traditionally conservative ministry is holding out for lesser commitments.

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[] There may also be interministerial disagreements on who should get aid and what conditions should be attached. The Quai official implied as much in saying his ministry believes the new aid funds should be given not only to France's "faithful friends," such as the Ivory Coast and Senegal, but also to others like Tanzania and Zambia. The aid should not be blatantly political, he said, but the Quai hopes that French aid would be a counterweight to "other"--i.e., Communist--influence, and open doors for France to English-speaking Africa.

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[] In addition to reconciling his own ministries, Giscard will have to soothe some of his European Community partners who resent the lack of prior consultation on a proposal he discussed with Secretary Kissinger. According to the Quai officer, France plans further talks with US and European officials, and possibly with Canada and Japan. []

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TURKEY

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[] Ankara released yesterday Prime Minister Demirel's response to Greek Prime Minister Caramanlis' call a month ago for a non-aggression pact. Demirel said he was open to further contact on the Greek proposal, but expressed reservations about the need for a non-aggression pact between allies.

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[] Demirel proposed that the Greek and Turkish foreign ministers meet at the NATO conference in Oslo to begin discussions on a wide range of issues.

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[] Although neither side appears willing at this time to make the concessions necessary to resolve their dispute over control of resources in the Aegean Sea or to break the impasse in the Cyprus talks, the session in Oslo and the talks tentatively scheduled for Bern next month on the Aegean problem could serve to lower tensions between the two countries.

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PAKISTAN - NORTH KOREA - CHINA

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[] Pakistan's Prime Minister Bhutto arrives in North Korea today for a six-day stay, after which he plans to spend five days in China.

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[] This is Bhutto's first trip to North Korea. He has frequently visited China, most recently in May 1974.

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[] Bhutto's activities in North Korea reportedly will be mostly ceremonial; the schedule includes only 90 minutes for substantive talks. North Korea has been interested for some time in a visit by the Pakistani leader as part of its campaign to enhance its standing in the third world. Bhutto apparently felt he could most easily respond by combining trips to Peking and Pyongyang.

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[] The North Koreans will probably urge Bhutto to alter Pakistan's neutral stance on the Korean question in the UN, but he is unlikely to agree. His government, which has full diplomatic relations with Pyongyang but only consular ties with Seoul, sees its present position toward the Koreans as one that helps it maintain good relations with China and the nonaligned countries while not antagonizing Washington.

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[REDACTED] Senior military officers in Bhutto's delegation may discuss new arms purchases with North Korean officials. Pyongyang has sold artillery, small arms, and ammunition to Pakistan.

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[REDACTED] The delegation probably will also discuss arms acquisitions in Peking. China has long been a major donor of military equipment to Pakistan.

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[REDACTED] Bhutto and the Chinese leaders will emphasize their mutual interest in containing Soviet influence in Asia. The Chinese undoubtedly will seek to reassure Bhutto that Sino-Pakistani relations will not be adversely affected by the recent modest improvement in Peking's relations with New Delhi.

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[REDACTED]

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ITALY

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[] Italy's political parties this week completed their candidate lists for the parliamentary election on June 20 and are set to begin active campaigning.

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[] All of the major parties have sought to broaden their appeal by including more fresh faces on their lists. The Communists appear to be ahead of the other parties in this respect, although the Christian Democrats have had some success in attracting new candidates.

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[] The Communists hope that the large number of non-party members among their candidates--about 10 percent of their slate--will limit the ability of the Christian Democrats to exploit uncertainty about whether the Communists will adhere to their pragmatic line stressing independence from Moscow if admitted to the government.

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[] The latest independent to join the Communist slate is EC commissioner Altiero Spinelli, who has been active in the West European unification movement throughout the postwar period.

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[] The Communists are sure to play up the presence on their ticket of another prominent independent, retired air force general Nino Pasti. Pasti, who held important posts in both the Italian armed forces and NATO prior to his retirement seven years ago, has reportedly said that he accepts the Communist Party's assertion that it is democratic and its commitment to support Italian membership in NATO as long as the Warsaw Pact continues to exist.

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[] The most prestigious addition to the Christian Democratic slate is Umberto Agnelli, managing director of Fiat and brother of Fiat chairman Giovanni Agnelli. Agnelli is running in Rome rather than in his home region of Piedmont because a

left-wing Christian Democratic leader objected that Agnelli's presence on the ticket in Piedmont would harm the party's relations with organized labor in the heavily industrialized northern region.

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[] Controversy continues over Communist leader Berlinguer's proposal last week for a post-election emergency government embracing all parties except the neo-fascists. The Christian Democrats yesterday reiterated their rejection of the idea.

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[] The Socialist Party is still at odds internally over policy toward the Communists. Most Socialists agree that the Communists should have some role after the election but differ over the degree and form of Communist involvement. The need to respond to Berlinguer's proposal is making it difficult for the Socialists to continue papering over internal differences by holding all post-election options open. []

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CHINA

Late Addendum

According to Reuter, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman today labeled as "utter nonsense" foreign press reports that Mao is dead or dying. []

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